

IN THE CLAIMS:

Prior to further examination, please amend the application so that the claims read as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 4 further comprising a coating filter coupled to the coating chamber.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 4 wherein the ~~vibration source is either a conveyor belt, a disc, a plate or an acoustic diaphragm.~~ cage is a stent.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A system for coating a medical device comprising:
 a coating chamber;
 a vibration-source, the vibration source configured to generate pressure waves sufficient to suspend ~~capable of suspending a medical device~~ a cage positioned in the coating chamber above the vibration source without the vibration source contacting the cage; and
 a coating source, the coating source positioned to introduce coating into the coating chamber;
 wherein the coating source includes a nozzle coupled to a supply of coating.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 4 wherein the vibration source is positioned below a screen and wherein the supply of coating contains a therapeutic.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for coating an implantable medical device comprising:

a coating chamber;

a vibration source, the vibration source adapted to suspend a medical device in the coating chamber; and

a coating source, the coating source positioned to introduce coating into the coating chamber,

wherein the coating source includes a nozzle coupled to a supply of coating,

wherein the vibration source is positioned below and not directly coupled to a screen, and

~~The apparatus of claim 5~~

wherein the vibration source is ~~capable of generating~~ adapted to generate pressure waves of compressible fluid containing enough energy to lift a medical device positioned in the coating chamber ~~a medical device located on the screen~~ away from the screen.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for coating a medical implant comprising:

a coating chamber;

a vibration source, the vibration source adapted to suspend an implantable medical device positioned in the coating chamber above the vibration source; and

a coating source, the coating source configured to introduce coating into the coating chamber;

wherein the coating source includes a nozzle coupled to a supply of coating, and

~~The apparatus of claim 4~~

wherein the nozzle is positioned beneath the vibration source.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for coating a medical device comprising:
- a coating chamber;
 - a vibration source, the vibration source ~~capable of suspending~~ adapted to suspend an implantable medical device positioned in the coating chamber above the vibration source, the vibration source exposed to the coating chamber; and
 - a therapeutic coating source, the therapeutic coating source ~~positioned~~ configured to introduce coating into the coating chamber;
 - a power source coupled to the vibration source; and
 - a controller controlling the power source and ~~providing instructions~~ configured to vibrate the vibration source at a predetermined frequency
- wherein the vibration source may move independently from the coating chamber.

9. - 25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for coating a medical implant comprising:
- a coating area sized to accept medical implants for implantation within the body of a patient;
 - a source of therapeutic coating having an exit point in fluid communication with the coating area;
 - a screen positioned in at the bottom of the coating area; and
 - a vibration source positioned beneath the screen, the vibration source adapted to vibrate at a rate sufficient to lift a medical implant positioned on the screen away from the screen.

wherein the screen may move independently from the vibration source.

~~means for forcing the medical implants to move above the screen during the coating process.~~

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the coating area is a confined space having an entrance and an exit,

the conveyor belt configured to urge a medical implant ~~device~~ in the coating area away from the entrance of the confined space and towards the exit of the confined space.

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for coating a medical implant comprising:

a coating area sized to accept medical implants for implantation within the body of a patient;

a vibration source positioned beneath the coating area; and

a source of therapeutic coating having an exit point in fluid communication with the coating area;

wherein the vibration source is a moving conveyor belt and

wherein the therapeutic coating covers an outside surface of the medical implant after the medical implant is removed from the coating area.

30.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the vibration source is exposed to the coating area ~~means for forcing the medical implants to move above the screen during the coating process comprises a vibration source positioned beneath the coating area.~~

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 26 ~~wherein the means for forcing the medical implants to move above the screen during the coating process comprises~~ wherein the exit point comprises a nozzle.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the ~~means for forcing the medical implants to move above the screen during the coating process comprises a vibration source positioned beneath the coating area and a nozzle~~ coating area is an enclosed space.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the ~~means for forcing the medical implants to move above the screen during the coating process comprises a gas flow structure~~ the source of therapeutic coating contains a therapeutic coating that coats a surface of the medical device after the medical device is removed from the coating area.

36. -39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for coating a medical implant comprising:
a coating area adapted to receive medical implants for implantation within the body of a patient;

means for supplying a therapeutic coating into the coating area; and

means for suspending the medical implants in the coating area during the coating process

~~The apparatus of claim 36~~

wherein the means for suspending the medical implants in the coating area during the coating process comprises a vibration structure and a nozzle.

41. (Canceled)

42. (New) The system of claim 4 wherein the vibration source is exposed to the coating chamber.

43. (New) The system of claim 4 wherein the cage is a vena-cava filter.

44. (New) The system of claim 4 wherein the coating source is positioned above a screen in the coating chamber.

45. (New) The system of claim 4 wherein the coating source contains a coating that covers a surface of the medical device after the medical device is removed from the coating chamber.